



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Radiation Protection

PA Radon Program

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Citizens Advisory Council
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Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

The Radon Certification Act 1987

- The primary purpose of the Act and the subsequent Chapter 240 Radon Certification Regulations is to protect the health & safety of the public *and* to protect the public from unqualified or unscrupulous persons.
- Requires the Department to establish, by regulation, a certification program for persons conducting **radon testing, lab analysis, and mitigation** of radon contamination in buildings.

Pennsylvania is Unique

- Average basement reading is 7 pCi/L.
- Average first floor reading is 3.5 pCi/L.
- 40% of PA radon test results are greater than 4 pCi/L.
- PA has a wide distribution of radon occurrences.
- DEP has a significant amount of “high-end data:”
 - 7% of PA data is greater than 20 pCi/L.
 - 0.44% of PA data is greater than 100 pCi/L; this translates to over 5,000 results.
- PA’s population is 12.8 million.

Extreme Radon Case

- Housing development in Southern Lehigh County with 18 homes with basement radon greater than 1,000 pCi/L.
- That's 250 times the US EPA guideline.
- Perhaps nowhere else in the country with this phenomenon.

PA Radon Division

- Radon Monitoring Section
- Radon Certification Section

▶ PA Radon Division – Certification Sec.

- Responsible for certification of initial and renewal applications for testers, mitigators, and labs.
- Perform enforcement actions for violations of the regulations.
- Oversee industry reporting requirements thru Greenport.

▶ PA Radon Division – Certification Sec.

- Number of Certified individuals:
 - Testers: 415
 - Mitigators: 137
 - Laboratories: 22

▶ PA Radon Division – Monitoring Sec.

- Perform statewide inspections of testers, mitigators, and labs.
- Provide expert, unbiased technical information on radon issues.
- Assist in various outreach efforts.

▶ PA Radon Division – Monitoring Sec.

- Work with PA Dept. of Health
- Newborn Program
- Remedial Program

PA Radon Division

- Radon Testing (Oct. 1, 2016 – Mar. 31, 2017)
 - 30,193 houses tested.
 - 7,426 “other” buildings tested.
 - 109 school buildings tested.

PA Radon Division

- Radon Mitigation (Oct. 1, 2016 – Mar. 31, 2017)
 - 4,133 homes mitigated.
 - 63 “other” buildings mitigated.
 - 1 school buildings mitigated.

Radon Issues Pending

- Radon Testing in Schools.
- Radon Testing during real-estate transactions.
- Radon Resistant New Construction.

PA Radon Division NRAM

- **National Radon Action Month (NRAM) - January**
 - Public Service Announcement.
 - WITF Smart Talk.
 - Jan. 2017 Radon Display in lobby of PA Dept. of Health & Human Services Building.
 - Jan. 2018 Radon Display in lobby of PA State Capitol.
 - DEP Press Release.
 - ABC 27 'Good Day PA' appearance.

PA Radon Division

- American Lung Association (ALA) – Targeted Surveys.
 - Targeted counties with few results (2011 - 2014).
 - Targeted Municipalities with areas of over 100 pCi/L (2014 - present).
 - Difficult to get municipalities to participate.
 - Included schools in 2017 – successful.



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